



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

800 Independence Ave., SW.
Washington, DC 20591

September 13, 2005

Mr. John Carr, President
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
1325 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear John:

I read your press release of September 8, 2005 with great dismay. You claim that the FAA is slowing the negotiation process. This is simply not true. If anything, NATCA is dragging its feet and could accelerate the process.

In your release, you point out that the Agency declined to simply roll over certain contract provisions, as had been done in the past. The union and its negotiating team are in receipt of a letter from the FAA specifying that these contract provisions contain non-negotiable and/or permissive language. In such cases, I believe it is perfectly acceptable, and, indeed, a responsible course of action, to reject the rollover of such provisions. In any case, to my knowledge, the union has neither formally acknowledged receipt of this letter nor taken any action in the proper forum disputing our position.

We want to move the negotiations forward to a prompt conclusion. The FAA is prepared to act now, and, therefore, I propose the following steps be taken:

- First, amend the ground rules to include an absolute end-date. You have stated your desire to have the contract concluded before Christmas, and we agree. John, I propose that you pick a firm end-date that both our teams can work towards, and, in the unlikely event there are remaining issues still in dispute, they will be moved to final resolution in the appropriate forum.
- Second, we should continue negotiations on a regular basis of five days a week until they are concluded.
- Third, pick a single location for the talks. The negotiations should be held in Washington, DC, instead of losing time and spending taxpayers' money on traveling all over the country to conduct negotiations.
- Finally, in order to facilitate our desired purpose of completing these negotiations in a timely manner, I will agree to invite the Federal

Mediator into the process to assist the parties in concluding the negotiations on or before the established end-date.

John, it is in the best interest of both parties to have these negotiations concluded in an expeditious and amicable fashion. I believe these suggestions will help facilitate the process.

Sincerely,

Joseph N. Miniace
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Strategic
Labor Management Relations

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WP: CarrLetter Sept.13.doc
AHL-1:J.Miniace:JM:79345:09/13/2005